

BLUE GRASS BLADE

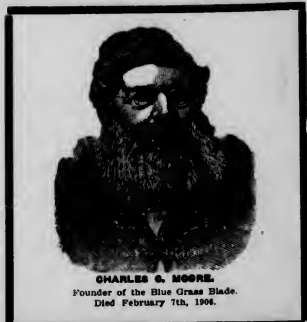
A. T. Parker
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WE AIM TO CUT DOWN ERROR AND ESTABLISH TRUTH.

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EDITORIAL

Preaching isn't teaching.

Liberty of brain is the great servitor.

Be careful how you train the human plant.

In the realm of intellect there is no infallible pope.

The true art of modern politics is to conceal existing conditions.

In spite of all prayer and psalm-singing, the votaries of religion are unable to repeal the law of gravitation.

The world is too large, and human life too complex to be permanently affected by the ranting folly of fools.

Judging from some recent American legislation, it looks as if the hired invocations for divine guidance were altogether wasted.

Schiller assures us that even the gods are powerless against stupidity and this may account for the seemingly impossible task of reforming the preachers.

The orthodox mirror is so absurdly convex, or so absurdly concave, that human life as it is reflected therein, and human conditions such as it is capable of producing, are too grotesque to be true.

Religious worship is but a fashionable form of gambling, a risk taken on uncertainties, a mere speculation upon future results and consequences, a practical robbing of earth for the sake of an imaginary heaven.

The core of all religions lies in a passive worship of a supposed supreme being and an alleged belief in man's immortality. One is a mere fiction, the

other a foolish fable. Around them the imagination of men has woven many a complicated web to dim and darken the brightness that all should be capable of finding in human life. Some are as beautiful as the robe which Arachne wore, others are both barbaric and repulsive. Science has demonstrated that all are false.

Instead of a bump of reverence most of our American religionists have a hollow in their head. To accept the ipse dixit of any man, no matter how wise he may be or pretend to be, is but intellectual slavery, and this is why Nescience is able to insult Knowledge.

The man who can make it possible for all to earn a comfortable livelihood removes the efficient cause of poverty and crime. Bitter experience should teach the worker that political parties contend only over carefully cooked issues and try to impel attention by heating on tom-toms to avert the political eclipse.

Because of the miracles recorded by the Bible, an ignoramus believes its every word, and yet, because of those same miracles the ingenuity and the faith found belief impossible. The religionist fritters his life away in the dismal swamp, wastes his strength with the idiosyncracies of creeds. 'Tis the dogmatists who delight to wrangle about their conceptions of deity.

The laborer must sell his only commodity at a price fixed by the shysters of capital. Extract the cost of his cheap living and what he has left over is sopped up by interest and the taxes levied on him with which to pay handsome stipends for misrepresentation. Labor is a compulsory game of freeze out with never a chance of winning.

CLASS DISCRIMINATION WILL LEAD TO REVOLUTION.

In the name of Israel's god, has the day dawned in America, this land of the free and the home of brave, when toll stained garments and hands that are enlaced by diligent daily labor, are to be condemned as a "constantly growing nuisance," and their owners discriminated against by quasi-public corporations, restrictions to belittle them in public places and class separation insisted upon? It looks like it, and if it is permitted to develop the day is not far distant when the obsequious classes will insist upon an era of legal proscription, which will be absolutely destructive of the republic. The facts are that the Big Four railroad company has issued an order to the effect that all laborers in its employ, white or black, when traveling in groups of fifteen or more on any of the company's railroads in the state of Illinois, shall be confined and restricted to the smoking car, and the plutocratic press has taken it in a spirit of commendation and praise as being an evidence of a desire on the part of the company to take due "cognizance" of "a growing nuisance."

For many years the people of the north have made unfavorable comments upon the southern for their assistance upon race separation. The north has never understood the negro question in the south and they do not understand it now. While refusing to meet upon terms of equality, the people of an inferior race the southron has never discriminated against one of his own race, and it has remained for a northern railroad corporation to inaugurate a system of discrimination against labor that can be but the entering wedge to something more radical, more obnoxious. With it all comes the insinuation that a subsidized press that "other railroads" will, in all probability, "follow such a wholesome example."

So the American laborer, the lord and creator of all wealth, he, whose labor gladdens the earth and whose skill brings beauty, is fast becoming a "growing nuisance," to the plutocrat who fattens and thrives upon his toil. The mere glimpse of his toil stained garments on board a railroad train is "offensive" to that class which reaps the harvest of his labor. This is class distinction with a vengeance. The laborer is told in plain and unvarnished language that he must not, henceforth, "force their company in dirty and otherwise offensive working clothes upon passengers who have paid for their seats in a car where reasonably civilized conditions are presumed to obtain." Thus the very presence of the laborer in his "working clothes" is looked upon as a source of pollution and an evidence of uncleanliness. Are these plutocrats unmindful of the fact that it is without labor the race would soon revert back to barbarism and be compelled to make a breakfast from roots?

But, stand back, thou son of toil. Remember thou art offensive and rapidly becoming a nuisance. The very clothes you wear and in which you must toil from day to day that you might live, are intolerable to men of wealth and fashion. If you do not like the new rules, why, walking is good and remember that on a railroad train the room you would occupy, is more preferable than your com-

pany. Remember, though, that the poorest beggar is equally an earth passenger with Croesus. He is traveling his millions of miles each day, and he can't be pushed off the earth! Two or three centuries hence the dust of the millionaire will have mingled with that of the mendicant, both of them long forgotten of men. The most pitiful failure in all the universe is he who only succeeds in making money. With the millionaire his deal is expediency and his moral law is simply to do others before they can get a chance to do him. These are to the social organism what a dozen hard boiled eggs would be to the stomach of a dyspeptic. It is not the foolish sound we make, but what we are that counts most in the concern of the race. It is the thiefing fox that grows fat by predacity while the honest watch dog starves.

If this new rule means anything worthy of consideration, it is that the American republic has reached the zenith of its glory, is on the road to decay. The caste system which prevailed in Ancient India, one of its downfall and ruin. It is now beginning to dawn in America, if it goes unchecked, it will lead us to the same destiny, the same fate. From class legislation we are drifting into class discrimination. The ultimate of this is that wealth will soon begin to mock at poverty and poverty will begin to curse wealth and the fires of a revolution have been laid which some bold and daring hand will kindle into an all-consuming flame.

AND A FOOL THERE WAS

With due apologies to Kipling for the title of this article the Blade appropriates it as a suitable application for the Pope of Rome. While it may be true that he has said many a "prayer" and "even as you and I" yet it is self-evident that the Pontiff has uttered just one too many and has been compelled to retract, to take a backward turn and transfer his trolley pole to another circuit wire. He is not the first in this line and he can find some consolation in that famous epigram attributed to the late William Ewart Gladstone, namely, "wise men change their minds, fools never do."

It will be recalled that the Pope issued an encyclical to the French bishops urging an open hostility to the new government and the separation law, and the Blade predicts that he would either be compelled to crawlfish or else France would give him and his clergy the grand bounce for all time. It appears that the Pope, who is looked upon as infallible, by some, is, after all, as fallible as it is possible for man to be, and this instance of wisdom being set away by his nice, fat head, he is just being set to make mistakes as the most ignorant workman who ever attended confession. He did make a mistake and he realized it, but not until it was too late. He has now been busy trying to recover from the disastrous effects of his encyclical, and has made a reiteration unworthy of infallibility in an effort to redeem the church from the headlong ruin in which he plunged it in the French republic. The truth is that the Pope has failed to undo his encyclical and issue a manifesto taking it all back. Like David, when the latter called all men liars, he spoke in his haste and was sorry for it. Failing to make good on a bluff, with a pair of deuces, he bunched his hand and passed for a new deal.

There is another feature connected with the affair which is likely to escape public notice and this is to be found in his contemplated discharge of his secretary of state, Cardinal Merry del Val, upon whose head has fallen the responsibility of the Pope's mistake. It seems that the Pope cannot wait until the heavenly hierarchy comes due for the application of vicious atonement but he must needs get a sample of it on earth. As a result he blames Merry del Val for submitting to him only incomplete reports of the situation in France which lead him to his almost fatal mistake of issuing his encyclical. To save himself the Pope has got to fire his secretary. It would be better for mankind if the secretary could devise a plan to fire the Pope. Perhaps Satan can best accomplish that job when the Pope is in a state of confusion. The Pope cannot virtue in that famous Persian poem on the "sorry scheme of things." In any event the Pope is now sorry that he spoke and regrets his rashness. He would, if he could, undo that which he has done, but the discharge of a secretary for his own mistakes will not satisfy the French people, cause a modification of the law, or restore the church to its former power in the republic.

THE BLADE'S FUTURE.

The announced change in the annual subscription rate of the Blade has produced but little adverse comment, while the vast majority commend the course suggested and argue that the Blade, as a Free Thought weekly is worth even more than the sum we have decided to ask for it.

What appears to be the most serious phase of the discussion is the suggestion, or prediction, that the Blade will be unable to long survive the increase, made by one subscriber, owing to a declination upon the part of many to renew their subscriptions at the increased rate. This may be true. It may not. We hope not. As a matter of fact we

had anticipated some falling off in the list of renewals. Our hope has been to be able to be sufficient to endanger the continuation of the paper. The true measure of value of any periodical is the success of its mission or enterprise. The Blade has a mission before it and it is succeeding. Shall the success of the mission be a detriment to or the death of the missionary? Surely not. If the Blade is not worth what we are asking for it, then it has no excuse to offer for its existence. True, indeed, we would prefer the one dollar rate could our circulation be made to justify it. That justification does not exist, so under the circumstances, what can the Blade do except that which it proposes to do?

Our friends say: "The Blade must live" and we re-echo the sentiment. We want the Blade to live but we also want it to be capable of meeting its own expenses and give a decent living to those at the helm. Give us a bigger circulation and the subscription goes back to one dollar again. In any event its future will be assured and with the help of its loyal friends it will never falter in the work it has before it.

ROME BOOK IS OUT.

With this issue we are pleased to announce that the Rome Book by Dr. J. B. Wilson has been mailed out to all subscribers, so far as our list is able to show. We have checked up that list, and it shows every subscriber supplied. It may be, however, that some mistakes have been made, which is usually the case in so large an undertaking, especially when our first venture on such a scale, and if any reader of the Blade who, having subscribed for the book, has failed to receive a copy, kindly notify this office and we will endeavor to rectify any and all errors.

It is a source of satisfaction to us, and should be especially so to its talented author, that the book has been given such a splendid reception, which shows that half of us do not merely know what we can do until we try.

While on the subject of the Rome Book, we would call attention to the fact that there are but few copies left. These should not be permitted to lay idle. They ought to be in circulation and well read. The good they can do is almost incalculable. No better or more interesting reading can be found, and now that the rights are gradually growing longer the Rome Book can be put to a good use. As a missionary enterprise it is not to be surpassed. Now, then, what shall we do with the remaining copies?

PRESBYTERIANISM AND PLUNDER.

The principal lesson to be learned from the suicide of Frank K. Hippie, of Philadelphia, the man who had benevolently assimilated seven millions of dollars of other people's money, is that the public must at all times be aware of the man who is so extremely pious that the moral welfare of others appears his chief concern. The money he stole, while meticulously crying "Amen" on Sundays, represented the deposits of thousands of clients of the Trust company of which he was president.

The incident, for in these days of colossal wealth and gigantic thefts, it can be regarded as an incident only, emphasizes a business rule that is rapidly becoming popular, one that is caused by the hollowiness and hypocrisy of religious advocates. Always keep a Pharisee under the gun. Learn to distrust the man who vaunts his virtue and looks to the views of others. The professional religious reformer who makes his duty to regulate the morals of society, at large, needs watching. When he was not occupied with the practice of embezzlement Mr. Hippie was seriously attending to the moral regulation of others. One of his daily business observations was that he would never trust a man who smoked a cigar, but if he declined to smoke in this world then the good Lord, Satan, or somebody in authority ought to see to it that he smokes good and plenty in the next world.

In religion Mr. Hippie was a Presbyterian, and he worked at the trade seven days in each week, the meanwhile he was stealing the money of other people. There are, of course, many honest Presbyterians, but Mr. Hippie was not one of them. Yet, he was true to his church. The length of his face on Sunday and the solemnity of his prayers won for him the confidence and esteem of the Philadelphia Synod. They made his bank their bank. In it they poured the wealth they had wrung from their worshippers. It came easy to them, and Hippie thought he might as well have a pick at it as they. He picked, but he picked it all and left nothing for them but anathemas. So great was the confidence reposed in President Hippie that Sunday-school organizations, which thrive off the pennies of little children, entrusted their funds in his hands with an abiding faith in his integrity. Even these were cleaned out, for he had verily "licked the platter clean, both outside and inside."

Because of his religious proclivities and for the sake of his church family, the coroner held back the report of his suicide for several days, and gave out that the sacred defaulter had died of a hemorrhage. True, indeed, but the hemorrhage was caused by a bullet fired into his brain by his own hand. The crash was upon him, and from his own hand the color did fly, and he was afraid of

(Continued on Page 4, first column.)

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(Continued from page one.)

If The Blade had the means it would open an institute for the inculcation of morals among the idlers and church workers and take such brazen hypocrites under the shelter of its wing. Several millions! Think of it! What could he have done with the money? Think of the number of widows and orphans he has robbed and then, we are told, the funds of his church which he had care of, are safe. With but a small loss the church will get its deposits intact. This information is given out with a view to softening public criticism. Such is the estimate of one who made Presbyterianism a synonym for plunder.

The remarkable question has been asked by an overzealous advocate of Christianity, "What has nature worship ever done for the moral uplifting of man?" but the rationalist might well ask in return, "What has God worship ever done to enoble man and to enrich human life?"

What has nature worship done? The answer is everything. What has God worship done? The answer is that which should not have been done and which would have been better left undone. The one uplifts, enriches and enlarges the soul, the other debases, enfeebles and enervates the mind, and lowers and lowers still the lofty ideals. The one degrades and debases the human intellect by making it inferior to that which is imaginary and unreal. The one holds man to himself, not permitting him to depart therefrom, giving him strength and courage, through life. The other makes them a coward and a hypocrite, a coward and a pharisee, a pharisee and a hypocrite, a hypocrite and a pharisee. The worshiper of Nature loves the good, the beautiful, the true. The God worshiper prostrates himself in the dust before an idol which he can only picture in the image of himself. The worshiper of Nature aspires to goodness for the inherent beauty he perceives therein and the virtue that follows in its wake, while the God worshiper is content with a personal gain and lives only in the expectation of a handsome dividend upon his celestial investment. he worshippers of Nature have ever been filled with an all-absorbing love for the race, founded on equity and justice. The worshippers of God have ever been secret murderers who have felled the silver tree of life and aged and bowed wither in his name and ripped open the wounds of women with children to add to his great glory.

If, as Pope declares, the proper study of mankind is man, then the worship that man has to bestow should be bestowed upon man. When men will learn to honor and esteem each other more, when the sordid selfishness of the Christian ages is dead and buried, they will no longer strive to make a heaven for themselves and a hell for other people, for he it known man never built a hell for his own habitation, but always for the other fellow. From this we get a forcible illustration of that ancient axiom that it makes a great difference how one is being gored. Only for the indifferent minds and the stupidly ignorant masses of humanity, the emancipation of man from a condition of mental slavery would not have been thus long deferred. Man needs and demands the help of his fellow man. God can get along very well without either.

It is in spite of God and not because of him
that the great world spins on forever bringing the
night and the morning, the seedtime and the har-
vest. Then let the gods go as mere fictions of
man's mental babyhood and let,
Man to man a brother be,
And strife shall be forgot;
Then crowns and creeds shall pass away,
And kings and priests are not.

Just why Theodore the Great, should deem it necessary to issue an explanatory or supplementary letter on his great effort to give some of the over-worked vowels and consonants in the English language a rest, he, himself only knows. Having issued his original kakae one had the right to expect that the President would "stand pat" on it, as he did in the Panama affair, and not weaken the reverence felt for his high personality by seeming to apologise for any act prompted by his own great genius.

In his advocacy of Freelove, Hermann Wettstein falls into the beautiful illusionary deductions of glittering theories, mistaking shadow for substance. No matter what system or rule may be applied to our sex relationship, marriage is now, and will continue for years to come, to be the only game of chance in which it is impossible for both sides to play a losing game. The doctrine is beautiful, but it is also impracticable.

Morality is largely a matter of definition, but in many instances, it cannot be made a synonym for decency. What is regarded as moral in one country may be the height of immorality in another. Different nations live by different standards. Even Anthony Comstock may consider himself the nicest person in New York, but the majority of American sovereigns look upon him as the nastiest. Only a few days ago, it took a Yale professor two hours and several thousand words to inform Comstock that the worst enemy of that decency he so industriously defends and professes to suppress, is Comstock himself. It is no trouble to prove that.

The world will blossom as a bright garden spot, if each will but do his or her part and that part must be done today. You have done all you can do for the yesterday and the yesterday has done all it can ever do for you. The best investment an individual can make is the one that pays a dividend now, and you have brought heaven to your feet. Each human life is a need of labor and rest, of responsibility and joy. The unit may not be able to cure each evil that afflicts society, but the one can help and when many help, the cure is speedily wrought. If we would get the best there is in life we must put the best we have into it.

“They might have spared my children” was the piteous plea of the Russian official, whose family was annihilated by the recent explosion of a bomb from the effects of which he alone escaped. The very same fate, and one even on dirtier cars in some countries of the world, but the hundreds of orphans that land upon American shores from that land of political and religious tyranny, whose shores and dams have fallen victims to a brutal governmental system, have passed through worse experiences. But this is the other side of the question which has been brought to us with such remarkable repetition that we had almost forgotten it until the sail of a mild Russian General recalled the sad fate of a child.

Where Ignorance Is Bliss

Wanchuan, Fla.—Enclosed find money order for \$1.00 to move up subscription another year. I like Blue Grass Blade fully as well, if

feel better than if I was stopping my subscription, you would still think much better of me if I could send you some subscribers. This I would be proud to do as you to receive but I think I have been unable to do anything so far. Not even men who have been running down in a way the church will subscribe, and some who claim to be Presbyterians hold aloof from literature and organizations. I have been here and am still in the same way with our church folks and am going to get those who have dropped out of the church to look up and read. I feel socially ostracized as much as I am, and would be entirely so if I were permitted. Possibly my method is entirely the cause of such strong opposition, but I think the chief cause of ignorance as dense as Egyptian darkness. But I am up against it all the time and I mean to open up somewhere the light of freedom to all who seek here.

I appreciate the great sacrifice you are now making and have made, as that of your predecessor. To me, who and my old friend, D. W. Arlt, who is dead, I owe very much, and I shall ever be ready to give you anything helping hand when I can. But I feel looks gloomy now. I once excluded from here paying the subscriptions and every fellow had me as a friend when or before it expired. Since then I have been unable to do anything with anyone except Dr. Y. E. Wright. He is a true man and assists me in every way he can. There is much spooking here in proportion to the population than in any place I know of. The population is blise here, to be sure.

As to organizing Freethinkers' meetings, I am working body, I hope it can be done, for it is a shame, one may sorrow in my face that we are not known as to numbers and organization, but, smart, but nobody—with us. If we had a preacher crowd of the church who would preach the gospel of the Free Thinker, this is the worst condition of the church—those who are called infidels but who preach it in season and out of season. These are the people who keep up the Free Thought papers and they are few, that's that (that it is a burden to me) better than what is done, here. Our editors are like a church preacher—always tight and begging for better support. I know their hearts melt in them when they make such sacrifices as they must and receive so little appreciation. If we could not have paper, we could not have a "big coat" so as to live on printer's paper, surely we would have some thought papers.

If I judge aright from our past history, unless we can organize masses of our people, we will repeat the fate of the Secularist and Free Thought Federation and the Liberal Party. The men and women who did compose these or-

...that we cannot attain the
...that we deserve and will get

we can hit a plan that will bring
the common folks.

have two ideas, given us suggestions for whatever they are worth. First, divide the country (Unions) into districts large enough so that it liberals enough who are interested, to maintain a lecturer, organize these liberals and have the same kind of meetings as we have here wherever he can, and lecture at public halls on Mr. Ingersoll's plan. We cannot maintain but one in the United States, let's have him—a good man, who can entertain the people and invite them to join the liberal movement. Second, let me ascertain in their meetings and lectures what literature. You must recognize your brother, that infidelity is a religion, pure and simple, but much purer and simpler than the Christianized infidelity. Hence no method but the religious method. The religious method means the genius you have suggested to and still belong to the christian cult have reduced religion to a science and while there is nothing to learn from us about truth, liberty and science, we too, can learn from them something of

One brother suggested Sunday schools. This is excellent, but must first get grown-ups before we get at the youths. This is a second idea. For you know, one condemnation of church folks will not

Yours truly,
G. W. HARP.

Dennison, Ohio. Do you still send five Postal Card subscriptions for \$2.50, if no send me five and I will remit. A young man by the name of McClain, a locomotive fireman of Wheeling, W. Va., gave me 50 cents a few days ago to put him in a Blue Grass Blade Club and the next trip he fell from a trestle 40 feet high, but he is not dead by a long shot and his engineer told me last night, that the said fireman is a real thinker and of the right sort.

Brother Hughes please look over the list I sent you June and see if all are having papers sent as some are not getting same. The Rome book is a gem and Paor and Chaney also H. H. Kall of this place say the same thing.

INCERSOLL MEMORIAL AND PICNIC

(BY MYRA P. WELLER.)

In beautiful commemoration of that great apostle of human liberty, the late Robert G. Ingersoll, about one hundred Froedlingers or more gathered in Moff's Grove, three miles west of Newton, Iowa, on Sunday, August 19, and with music, songs, recitations and speeches regaled themselves with a picnic. The occasion derides the cause we advocate. It was a beautiful day. The weather was simply glorious and every one present found plenty of happiness in this open air demonstration. The grounds where we assembled are beautifully situated. In scenery and appearance and then in the fact that it was a glorious reunion and an intellectual as well as physical feast.

Mrs. Harriet M. Closs, of Webster City, Iowa, gave the address, her subject being "The Rights of Women."

Mrs. Closs has a national reputation as a liberal speaker and writer and she handled her subject in a masterful manner. The address was supplemented by recitations by Oressa Stoffit, Ona Keating and Myra Pepper Weller, from Mitchell, S. D.

The ladies provided a bountiful dinner and more than one hundred people enjoyed it. Music was furnished by the Vernocuf sisters and by an Edison graphophone. Plenty of ice water and lemonade quenched our thirst and many enjoyed the boating on the lake and the swings in the grove.

The time has come when it is respectable to attend a meeting of Free-thinking people. The world no longer burns people at the stake for their opinions, and it is to be hoped that tolerance and charity will so increase that shafts of calumny will never be hurled at those who dare to differ from creeds and custom.

The Complete Separation of
Church and State.

BY WHICH WE DEMAND

1. The Taxation of Church Property.
2. The abrogation of all laws favoring the observance of Sunday as a holy-day.
3. The cessation of appropriating public funds for the purpose of maintaining in our army, navy, legislators, and other State institutions.
4. The abrogation of the judicial oath in the courts in iniquitous ceremonies, and all other legal recognition of religion, such as religious festivals, and days of thanksgiving and fasting.
5. That no diplomatic relations be established with the head or official authority of any church or religion, nor that the God of the Father be invoked by any religious or political institution, nor other vocation be made of Article 1 of the Amendments to the Constitution.
6. The termination of all laws, whatsoever, granting class privileges.
7. The freedom of speech and press.

PATENT ATTORNEY

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